(b) if so, whether the Supreme Court Bar Association is against this approach of the Supreme Court to dilute the application of RTI upon itself; and

(c) what are the considered views of Government in this regard so that such step of the Supreme Court may not become a precedent for other constitutional entities like Election Commission, CAG. etc.?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The position in this regard is being ascertained for examination in the Government.

Exploitation of women in courts

†4180. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether this fact has come to the notice of Government that incidents of sexual exploitation are increasing at large scale in the courts of Delhi;

(b) whether keeping this fact in view, a Committee consisting of Judges has been set up in District Courts where harassed women may get their complaint lodged; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Information and details in this regard have been called for from the High Court of Delhi which are awaited

Pending cases and judges-population

4181.SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of more than 5,31,477 cases pending in High Courts for 10 years and much more in subordinate courts, the budgetary allocation of Rs. 1000 crore for 2006-07 for judicial reforms is grossly mismatched;

(b) whether the Judges population ratio in India is 10.5 judges per million persons, according to 2001 census, whereas the Law Commission prescribes 107 judges per million; and

(c) whether as an interim measure, Government would consider raising the judge-strength five-fold from 10.5 to atleast 50 judges per million?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Judicial Reforms is a continuous process and is a combined responsibility of all stakeholders including the Executive and the Judiciary. Both the Union Government and the State Governments continue their efforts including through providing financial support for carrying out and sustaining judicial reforms. The expenditure incurred by the High Courts including that for disposal of cases being charged on the Consolidated Fund of the State Governments, the States also have a major responsibility in this regard. In so far as the Union Government is concerned it is continuing its efforts for judicial reforms including that by providing financial support to the State Governments by making budget provisions in this regard. Government approved a scheme for computerization of all District and subordinate courts of the country at a cost of Rs 442 crores. An amount of Rs.322.87 crore has been provided as Budger Estimates for 2007-08 for the Department of Justice for continuing both Plan and Non-Plan schemes aimed at efficient justice delivery. In addition to the Union Government's efforts, the States have also made appropriate provisions both for their respective High Courts and for its subordinate judiciary.

(b) and (c) The 120th Law Commission in its Report of July, 1987 had mentioned that there was a justification for increasing the then ratio of 10.5 judges per million population to at least 50 million Indian population. The Supreme Court, in its judgement of 21st March, 2002, in All India Judges Association & Ors. *Vs.* Union of India & Ors. (all State Governments and Union Territories are also party to this case), directed that an increase in the Judge strength from the existing 10.5 or 13 per 10 lakh people to 50 judges per 10 lakh people would be effected and implemented within a period of five years in a phased manner to be determined and directed by the Union Ministry of Law. The Central Government have filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court praying that the increase in judge strength in the Union Territories for which Central Government is administratively responsible be allowed based on workload and pendency of cases. The matter is *subjudice.*

Representation of women in Parliament

4182. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India ranks very low at 108th position among 189 countries as regards the percentage of women law makers in